

Job Accidents Take Big Toll In California

(State Fed. Release)

One of every 22 California workers last year suffered a disabling industrial injury, according to the annual summary of industrial accidents for 1948 released by the State Department of Industrial Relations.

This alarming condition is emphasized by the rates for workers in mineral extraction (largely petroleum drilling and production) and in construction, which were much higher. In both of these industries approximately one in every nine workers sustained a lost-time injury in 1948.

In sharp contrast, and at the other extreme, one of every 100 employees in "finance" suffered a disabling injury.

649 ARE KILLED

During the year 1948 the Department received notices of 141,528 non-fatal disabling injuries and 649 deaths.

The only favorable, but at the same time not too encouraging aspect of these figures is that they represent a drop from 1947 of five per cent in non-fatal injuries and 13 per cent in deaths.

Heading the list, as has been the case in previous years, is the manufacturing division, with 178 deaths and 39,913 non-fatal disabling injuries, accounting for 28 per cent of all injuries reported.

Retail and wholesale trade establishments reported 72 deaths and 27,145 non-fatal disabling industrial injuries. This was at the rate of one disabling injury for every 29 employees.

CONSTRUCTION HIGH

One-sixth of all lost-time injuries in 1948 occurred in the construction industry. The total number of reported injuries increased from 21,225 in 1947 to 22,979 in 1948. The number of fatalities declined from 121 to 116, furnishing very little consolation.

Although the number of disabling injuries in mineral extraction decreased three per cent, the number of deaths increased from 36 in 1947 to 45 in 1948.

The number of deaths in agriculture dropped by nearly one-half, from 102 in 1947 to 54 in 1948. The total of lost-time accidents, however, decreased by only four per cent, from 13,992 to 13,407.

This terrible waste in human life and in production is remediable if enough attention is centered on the problem. Something must be done to overcome this appalling state of affairs.

The Federation has constantly emphasized the need for a comprehensive safety program to prevent occurrences of this kind. Furthermore, only a very small percentage of the workers who suffer these disabling injuries are obtaining workmen's compensation to which they are entitled.

The Federation again urges its affiliated organizations to inform their members of their rights under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Federation is ready and eager at all times to represent these workers in obtaining for them the compensation that is due them under the law.

Firm Makes \$16 Million Profit, Denies Pay Raise

New York.—Last weekend—less than two weeks after an arbitrator had sustained the American Woolen Company's refusal to give its 23,000 employees any raise in wages at all this year—the company issued its annual profit report.

The net income for 1948 was \$16,472,393, or \$15.88 per share on common stock, compared with a net profit of \$16,269,914 for the preceding year. The company's sales were up 12.4 per cent over the previous year—or from \$176 million to \$198 million.

In customary pessimistic vein, the company's annual report anticipated somewhat smaller profits next year, but this pessimism was not deep enough to prevent the company from issuing its report in a handsome 50-page booklet, containing an illustrated story of the company's history. There was also enough money apparently to add an illustrated section to the book, entitled "Wool Through the Ages."

Biggest Miners' Vote

Washington.—Re-election of John L. Lewis as president of the United Mine Workers is no great surprise, but this year's balloting gave him the largest vote he has yet received in his 30 years of office. Official scoring revealed no write-ins, no opposition, and 286,504 votes for Lewis. As a result of a wage increase given by the 600,000-strong membership he will receive \$50,000 a year as president.

Less time would be wasted in union meetings if some of the speakers would tell what they know instead of what they think.

Dance Planned By Salinas AFL For Red Cross

Plans for a benefit dance in Salinas during the month of March with all proceeds going to the Salinas Chapter of the American Red Cross are being made by the Central Labor Union of Monterey County at Salinas, it was announced last week.

The council has named a special committee to make all arrangements for the benefit affair and tickets will be placed on sale at once, according to Peter A. Andrade, acting secretary of the council during vacation of Secretary W. G. "Bud" Kenyon, who was back on the job this week.

Andrade said the dance will be in connection with the Red Cross Fund Drive during March and would be representative of the "total support" given the Red Cross by AFL unions in Salinas. Tentative plans call for the affair to be at the "Old Barn," or Alisal Community Club, on Williams Road. Date was not set pending advancement of plans.

Committee members arranging the affair include: R. Fenchel, of Laborers 272, as chairman; Andrade, of Teamsters 890, as secretary; Hearn, of Painters 1104; Hence, of Retail Clerks 839; Gramstead, of Carpenters 925; Foster, of Barbers 827; Clayson, of Teachers Union, and Harris, of Teamsters 890.

School Spraying Probed by Joint Group in Salinas

An unusual problem was brought before the Joint Committee of Painters and Decorators at Salinas last week when the committee delved into the advisability of approving spray painting of two Salinas schools.

Comprising the joint committee are Contractors J. T. Brown, Donald Buchanan and Clarence Nelson, and three representatives of Painters Union 1104, Secretary Carl Lara, Clay Lewis and Roy Hearn. Recommendation of the committee was that the school board have brush jobs done at Lincoln School and Roosevelt School, rather than spraying, but the joint group did not refuse a spray permit in the matter, Lara said.

It was pointed out that spraying would result in a messy clean-up job, with paint getting on window sash, nearby shrubbery, parked cars, and any other nearby object, while the brush job would be cleaner. Also, Lara added, paint sprayed would not get into the surface sufficiently or as thoroughly as that sprayed, and therefore would not last as long.

In addition, the joint committee voted to offer its services and advice to the school board at any time and in any matter under jurisdiction of the group, Lara said.

PG&E PROJECT CALLS MORE LABORERS HERE

More laborers from Salinas Laborers Union 272 were called to the Moss Landing Steam Plant project for Pacific Gas & Electric Co. last week by Stone & Webster, general contractors, according to J. B. McGinley, union business agent.

There are about 90 union laborers on the project now, McGinley said, and more calls for men are expected from week to week.

Work is picking up for union laborers in the Salinas area, he added, with building of homes and commercial structures resuming with improved weather.

At Soledad, the Movick Construction Co. of Fresno has called for a crew for a big sewer project.

San Jose contractor Leo Piazza has begun sewer installations on Holly Street in Salinas, using men from Local 272.

American Sign Is Now Union

Union agreements were negotiated and approved between American Sign Co. of Salinas and two unions, according to Carl Lara, union official.

Lara said the firm signed the neon industry agreement with Electrical Workers Union 243 and signed the contract of the Western States Conference of Pictorial Sign Artists to cover sign painters, the latter contract handled through Salinas Painters Union 1104.

BURGLARS GET CASH, LIQUOR AT LABOR HALL

Enterprising burglars ripped out a door, moved furniture, ransacked desks and made a general mess out of offices in the Salinas Labor Temple last week but got only about \$50 in cash and a radio plus a small quantity of liquor for their trouble, union officials report.

Entering the main building through the men's room, the burglars broke through a nailed-shut doorway to reach offices of Bartenders 545 and Culinary Alliance 467. Here desk locks and drawers and files were smashed and contents of the drawers and filing cabinets were littered about the room.

Using a "jimmy" the burglars next entered offices of Laborers 272 and Machinists 1824, again breaking into steel files, desks and drawers.

Officials said only petty cash and stamp funds had been left in the offices. Secretary Bertha Boles of Culinary 467 reported her table-model radio stolen and a savings account robbed.

During their search, the burglars found a half-case of liquor which had been left in the office of Bartenders 545, the liquor to be given away at a coming meeting, according to Union Secretary A. J. Clark. Two bottles were broken open and consumed while the rest was carried away, Clark said.

Other offices on the Labor Temple property were not looted, according to reports. Damage to desks and equipment was placed far in excess of the loss of cash and other loot.

Teamsters Shift Salinas Meetings To Bigger Hall

As result of a greater attendance at membership meetings of Teamsters Union 890 in Salinas, plans are being made to change the meetings to the Salinas Moose Hall beginning in April, according to union Secretary Peter A. Andrade.

Compulsory attendance of members at one of three monthly meetings in each quarter will make the present meeting place, Carpenters Union 925 Hall, too small, Andrade said.

The union voted at its last meeting that all members residing in the Salinas area must attend at least one meeting in three or pay an assessment.

As result of the contemplated change, another meeting night may also be necessary, Andrade added. Announcement will be made to members of Local 890 through the Labor News.

NOTICE: The March meeting will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 3, at Carpenters Hall—change in meeting day and place will not be effective until April.

Monterey Labor Council Notes

A joint meeting was held Feb. 15 by the Building Trades Council and the Monterey Peninsula Central Labor Council to consider the controversy with the Pep Creamery.

Brother Rice reported on the history of the struggle. The meeting also was attended by representatives of the Culinary Alliance from Santa Cruz, Watsonville and San Jose. Brother Agrillo, vice-president of the California State Federation of Labor, was also present. Delegates and visitors all pledged their support to the Culinary Alliance and emphasized that this fight is a fight for all organized labor. A poll of the 10 per cent represented showed 10 per cent for the Culinary Alliance.

The Teamsters announced that they will soon begin their fight against the Lucky Strike Produce Company and asked all locals to spread the word that this firm is non-union.

Wayne Edwards, Secretary.

Lara Checking On Oil Fields

Business Representative Carl Lara, who acts for both Electrical Workers Union 243 and Painters Union 1104, of Salinas, was in the extreme southern portion of the county last week checking on electrical installations at the new oil fields near San Ardo.

He reports that Barnett Electric Co. of Santa Maria is doing work in the area and said he would seek a contract with this firm at once. No painters are working on the project as yet, he reported.

MONTEREY COUNTY LABOR NEWS

SALINAS, CALIF., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1949

WHOLE NO. 542



TIME OFF FOR QUICK DIP.—Visitors to the AFL Executive Council meeting in Miami, Fla., take time off to enjoy a brief cruise aboard the submarine USS Madregal. Left to right are: Jack Shields, Washington, D. C.; William Holland, Washington, D. C.; O. B. Soud, Terre Haute, Ind.; Joe Loftus, New York; Lt. Com. Bill Houghland; C. F. Strickland, Atlanta, Ga.; and L. J. Myers, Washington, D. C.

Wage Losses—Big Profits; Breadlines at the Gates

Washington.—If one member of President Truman's Council of Economic Advisers was a labor leader—a labor leader who saw no serious moves on the part of Congress to combat high prices—he'd be fighting hard for a fourth round of pay increases for the men and women in his union.

That's what John D. Clark, a former Standard Oil of Indiana official who retired and became an economist, and is now on the three-man Council of Economic Advisers, told the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report last week. He also contradicted a claim that no industrialist would welcome unemployment.

Here is the way the discussion went:

"Rep. Christian Herter (R., Mass.)—Would you record yourself as being against a fourth round wage increase at the present time?"

"Clark—I don't know from what standpoint you are asking. I would say if I were a labor leader, seeing the profit situation, seeing that prices have been continuing to advance and no effective action has been taken to give any assurance to labor that they will not again advance, and I considered that my strategic position was strong enough to permit me to win wage increases which would at least compensate for the increases in the cost of living which have taken place since the last wage payments, I would make a tremendous drive for those wage increases."

"Herter—In other words, you would try to get that out of the earning surplus of the manufacturer, that wage increase? It has to come from somewhere, doesn't it? You would not take it out of consumers' pockets. The only place it can come from is from the profits today being earned by the large corporations."

And later, Clark referred back to a comment Rep. Robert F. Rish (R., Pa.) had made earlier—that he's never heard of a businessman who wanted unemployment. Said Clark: "I think it was you who asked if there was anybody who was in favor of unemployment. . . . We have had presented to us repeatedly in our conferences with representatives of business that very proposal that the best thing that could happen would be to have a larger degree of unemployment in order that there might be at the factory gate each morning a list of job hunters—what is happening in their kitchens I don't know—because that would make labor more eager and more productive."

Rich had no reply to that.

Fleming Urges U.S. Building Program

Washington, D. C.—A \$40,000,000 program for the purchase of sites and preparation of plans for currently needed federal buildings throughout the country was advocated by Maj. Gen. Philip B. Fleming, Federal Works Administrator, testifying before a Senate Subcommittee on Public Works.

"For years I have been preaching to the states and their political subdivisions that they ought to have plans on the shelf prepared, ready to go when the time comes when employment is needed in the construction industry," General Fleming said. "I would be remiss in my duty if I did not take the same position with respect to the federal government."

Insurance Probe Bill Presented to Congress

Washington.—The chairman of the Senate and House Judiciary Committee proposed a joint investigation to determine whether life insurance companies are violating federal anti-trust laws.

The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that insurance companies are engaged in interstate commerce if their business is transacted across state lines.

Senator Pat McCarran, Democrat of Nevada, chairman of the Senate committee, and Representative Emanuel Celler, Democrat of New York, of the House committee, said they would introduce resolutions authorizing the inquiry. They said the investigation also would determine the effect of state anti-trust laws.

Agrillo Tours District, Talks To Cement Meet

Anthony Agrillo, district vice president of the California State Federation of Labor, made a surprise trip through Santa Cruz and Monterey counties last Friday, visiting union officials and winding up the trip by appearing before the Cement workers District Council convention in Santa Cruz.

On the trip, he discussed with union officials the coming State Federation of Labor legislative conference in Fresno and told of work by the Federation in behalf of organized labor through legislative actions in Sacramento during the State Legislative sessions.

Appearing without advance notice at the cement worker meeting, Agrillo was introduced and gave an impromptu talk on legislative and other matters, winning the plaudits and praise of the convention delegates.

Earlier last week, Agrillo had traveled to Monterey to attend a special joint meeting of building trades and central labor council members on the Pep Creamery strike there.

FCWU Seeking Improved Laws

With Monterey's Cannery Row idle just now, between the winter and summer seasons, officials of the Monterey Fish Cannery Workers Union are busy working on matters in connection with improved legislation governing the sardine fishing and canning industry.

Union Secretary Roy Humbracht said representatives of the industry and of labor unions involved were working jointly in an effort to gain regulations on the industry which would be beneficial to both groups.

Sardine canning is at a standstill just now, the summer packing season to start April 15. None of the plants have informed the union of plans for summer pack, Humbracht added.

Recreation Move Pushed by Temos

Plans of General Teamsters Union 890 of Salinas to form softball, hardball, bowling and other teams under the union's new recreation program are gaining, Secretary Peter A. Andrade reports.

Funds to outfit teams are being raised through a special event and tickets are now on sale.

Team players will be recruited from ranks of the union membership and the teams will compete in the city recreation leagues, Andrade announced.

Carpenters Busy At Moss Landing

Improving weather has provided more opportunities for union carpenters at the Stone & Webster project of building a steam generating plant at Moss Landing for Pacific Gas & Electric Co. From 55 to 60 carpenters have been sent to the job by Carpenters Union 925 of Salinas and call for more men is expected shortly, it was reported.

Bond Issue Set For New Hospital

Voters in Salinas will decide at a bond election in April whether or not to approve issuance of \$2,000,000 in bonds for a new Community Hospital project, it was announced last week. Labor unions will investigate the matter and make recommendation at a later date, it was reported.

Lara to Fresno

Carl Lara, former president of the Monterey County Central Labor Union at Salinas and business representative of Salinas Electrical Workers Union 243 and Painters Union 1104, will represent the labor council at this week-end's political and legislative conference at Fresno under auspices of the California State Federation of Labor, it was announced last week.

Temo Gives Blood

Ivan Dustin, member of General Teamsters Union 890, responded to a call for blood donors last week from the union and gave blood to help the wife of a member, officials report. The union lists prospective donors and call upon them in such emergencies, inasmuch as there is no blood bank in the Salinas area.

Thin scalps tend to grow bald sooner than thick ones.

Monterey Unions Vote Full Aid To Pep Strikers

Officials of most AFL unions in the Monterey area gathered at Bartenders Hall last week to lay plans for greater support to the Pep Creamery strikers of Bartenders-Culinary Union 483 of Monterey.

Union Secretary George L. Rice explained the strike and picketing of the Pep units in Monterey, Watsonville and Santa Cruz, and called upon all unions for stronger support.

The result was an earnest pledge to give all possible aid in the dispute with both financial and moral support offered. It was agreed that all unions would send postcards to members explaining the dispute and calling upon members to solicit support from friends and others.

Vice President J. H. Morgan of the California State Council of Culinary Workers and Bartenders and Vice President Anthony Agrillo of the California State Federation of Labor attended the meeting and spoke briefly.

The general meeting was a joint gathering of the Monterey Peninsula Central Labor Council and the Monterey County Building Trades Council was well attended.

Meanwhile at Watsonville, Secretary Mildred Rowe of Culinary-Bartenders Union 345, which is picketing Pep in Santa Cruz and Watsonville, said there were no changes in the dispute there.

A meeting of union officials from throughout the county and from unions elsewhere which have jurisdiction in Santa Cruz county was called for Monday night of this week in Watsonville to lay plans for further support of the strikers.

AFL Fishermen Seek Benefits

Clarification of state unemployment insurance regulations which have been so interpreted as to cause loss of benefits to AFL union fishermen in Monterey when they are working only part-time and are not earning over the amount allowable to be eligible for part benefits is sought in an action in Superior Court here scheduled for March 7.

A fisherman, Jacinto Alabarria, claims he earned only \$3 in one week and was denied partial benefits from his unemployment insurance. He is asking the court to clarify regulations which deny him partial benefits. Attorney Charles P. Scully of the State Federation of Labor is handling his claim.

Electricians Still Off Job In Moss Landing

Electrical Workers of Local 243 of Salinas continued to stay off the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. steam plant in Moss Landing last week pending settlement of their dispute with Stone & Webster Co., general contractors, over travel time to and from the job.

The men left their work three weeks ago in an effort to gain the travel time, with Salinas as base city. Union Representative Carl Lara said the union has made no effort to involve any other crafts in the dispute and no picket lines were established. The international union is assisting in an effort to reach a settlement, Lara added.

IBEW Meeting To Have Report On Apprentices

A uniform code of apprenticeship standards proposed for both the neon sign and construction divisions of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers will be presented to the Salinas IBEW Local 243 meeting on Wednesday, March 2, Business Representative Carl Lara reports.

Approval or rejection of the standards as proposed will be asked at the meeting. Local 243 has a half dozen apprentices now, all working under a tentative code of regulations.

Chas. Lay Dies

Death last week claimed Charles Lay, owner and operator of the Lettuce Inn and the Franciscan Hotel in Salinas and an employer whose friendly relations with unions was widely known. Union officials said Mr. Lay became ill suddenly last week and was rushed to a hospital, where he passed away on Friday.

9 Major Goals Are Listed by AFL Council

Miami, Fla.—While Taft-Hartley repeal remains its No. 1 objective, the AFL Executive Council, at its closing session here, made public nine other important goals for which it will fight in the current Congress.

The council declared that it intends to concentrate its efforts on securing repeal of T-H, but it stressed that "this should not obscure the fact that there are many other major planks in the Federation's legislative program which virtually affect the interests of American workers and for which we will fight unceasingly." The other objectives listed by the council are these:

"Enactment of a comprehensive housing program, including rent control.

"Support of President Truman's firm policy toward Russia as the only practical way to attain eventual world peace . . . and sufficient funds for the Marshall Plan.

"Voluntary methods for controlling prices, with price controls only as a last resort . . . If taxes are increased, the burden should be placed on those best able to pay.

"Broad improvements in social security, a national health program, disability insurance, a nationalized unemployment compensation system, increase of the minimum wage to \$1 an hour with broader coverage of the Wage-Hour Act, a billion dollars of Federal aid to education and civil rights legislation.

"Full support of a truly adequate national defense program, and an expanded merchant ship construction program fairly distributed in the various areas of the country.

"A constructive program for the development and protection of our natural resources, including soil conservation, reclamation, irrigation and flood control . . . and creation of river valley authorities.

"Legislation to raise the standards and improve the conditions of government employees.

"Transfer to the Labor Department of all functions and agencies which properly belong to it.

"The council wound up by saying there are various other measures the AFL will back, such as liberalization of the Displaced Persons Act and establishment of a National Science Foundation.

University of GM Cancels Phoney Workers' Classes

Washington.—The "University of GM," as Michigan workers are now calling their state university, met with a rebuff when it tried recently to reopen its workers' education program without consulting the university's advisory committee on the service.

One student turned up for the classes all week, so, at week's end, President Ruthven of the university announced that the service had been closed up.

Denying an organized boycott, union leaders from AFL, CIO and independent unions are inviting a commission of prominent educators to visit Detroit to investigate the demise of the Workers Educational Service of the University of Michigan.

Unionists charge General Motors Corporation is responsible for the end of the Educational Service, which last year provided teachers, discussion leaders and resource people for hundreds of union educational programs. The university, and Governor Kim Sigler (subsequently defeated by Mennen Williams in the November landslide), closed up the service first when a General Motors Corporation economist testified before the House Labor Committee that "subversive teachings" were being handed out by WES. In addition, President Charles E. Wilson of GM asked Sigler to investigate the service.

Despite the fact that negotiations between the university and the WES advisory committee, which includes labor and non-labor people, were still in progress this month, Ruthven went ahead and announced opening of the "new program" which drew exactly one student.

Southern Editors Plan Permanent Organization

Miami.—Editors of bonafide Southern labor papers formed a temporary organization. Stanton Dann, editor of the Mobile Labor Journal, was named chairman and L. B. Stanford, editor of the Southern Teamster, Atlanta, secretary. The meeting was attended by editors of labor papers east of the Mississippi River.

A permanent Southern labor press organization is slated to be set up at a meeting in Atlanta on March 26 and 27. The bonafide labor press of the entire Southern territory will be invited to the Atlanta gathering.

MONTEREY COUNTY LABOR NEWS

A CALIFORNIA LABOR PRESS PUBLICATION

Office at Labor Temple, 117 Fajaro Street, Salinas, California
Entered as Second Class Matter February 20, at the Postoffice at Salinas, California, Under the Act of March 3, 1879.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY

Official Organ of the Central Labor Union of Monterey County, Salinas, Calif.
Monterey Peninsula Central Labor Council, Monterey, California.
Monterey County Building Trades Council, Monterey, Calif.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year \$2.50
Six Months 1.50
Single Copies .05

Special rates to members of organized labor subscribing in a body through their Unions.

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

Address all Communications to the LABOR NEWS,
Post Office Box 1410, Salinas, California.All copy must be in not later than Tuesday noon, preceding date of publication.
The editorial policy of this paper is not reflected in any way by the advertisements or signed communications printed herein.

FILIBUSTERING IN CONGRESS

One of the favorite methods used by politicians in Congress to prevent passage of much needed laws is to organize a filibuster campaign, which is nothing more nor less than a plan to talk a measure to death by endless debate either on the proposed measure or amendments to it, the game being to argue endlessly until the rest of the lawmakers are worn out and become willing to take up the consideration of some other subject.

In our present Congress the filibustering contingent is already on the job. They are busy doing everything humanly possible to prevent the passage of a number of measures that the majority of our people have indicated by their votes that they want either repealed or enacted. The filibusters today constitute the chief obstacle to these desired actions being taken. The party in power will have to devise ways and means for mowing down today's filibustering minority group in Congress. This is the first action demanded from today's Democratic party by the American people, who on November 2nd entrusted all departments of government to this party for a period of two years. A minority cannot filibuster needed legislation to death unless the majority permits them to do it.

DEFYING PUBLIC BOOMERANGS

There have been many cases of elected and appointed officials in high places, who have disregarded the expressed wishes of their constituents in the evident belief that they could continue to get by indefinitely with such an attitude towards the very people and voters who are responsible directly or indirectly for them being placed in the position of power, which they hold.

Although it often happens that those who thus brazenly defy public opinion continue to retain their positions for a time it rarely happens that they continue to live down permanently the ire of their constituents, who sooner or later bury their unfaithful public servants with an avalanche of adverse votes, when election time rolls around.

Every wise politician knows that he cannot afford to disregard the will of his constituents. Those who think they can ignore the public will and still hold on are liable to wake up some day to a realization that such a political philosophy always sooner or later boomerangs every time. In the long run the will of the majority asserts itself, although there are times it takes the public quite a few years to become informed or wake up to what is going on. In every functioning democracy the will of the majority rules.

DEWEY'S PLAN OLD STUFF

In a desperate effort to pulmotor life back into the dying Republican party Thomas Dewey in an after dinner speech recently undertook to tell the deeply disappointed outs how to become ins again. His argument was that since it has worked before, therefore it will work again and put the G. O. P. back in power and control once more.

It was the same old stuff over again, namely: Give the American people enough promises to fool the majority into electing the G. O. P. back in, then would follow the often repeated double cross. Unfortunately for the G. O. P. their slicker politicians have played this confidence game of promising much and doing little so often that their frantic appeals to give them just one more chance no longer win elections like they used to.

The whole trouble is that the G. O. P. has ceased to be the party that stands for the principles that Lincoln stood for and has instead become the party of the National Manufacturers Association, whose chief aim now as always, has been to weaken and wreck our labor unions and enthrone the lackeys of big business into the seats of power. The 80th Congress proved what the G. O. P. stands for. Nothing that Dewey may now say can change that record. Today it is the party of profiteers and reaction, for the rich, against the poor.

REDUCING NATIONAL DEBT

As matters now stand at least fifteen billion dollars a year of debt reduction should be paid off every year. By using this much of the money now being given away or spent on the least necessary of our military slush fund to reduce our national debt would be the wisest kind of financing our government could resort to. Reducing our debt by this amount would remove the interest item of 375 million dollars a year on that part of our present debt which draws 2½% interest. That is exactly \$1,027,379.26 less interest per day that otherwise will be piled on our backs and those of our children. We need this relief.

When you see how so many of the voters cast their ballots on the 19 measures voted on in this state last November 2nd can you help but wonder how a lot of them reached their conclusions?



LEADS LANDLORDS' EVICTION—Mastermind of the landlords' mass "strike" against rent control in Tulsa, Okla., the Rev. Wallace J. Murphy dictates eviction notices to a secretary from his sickbed. Rev. Murphy, former control in Tulsa, Okla., the Rev. president of the Natl. Assn. of Property Owners, set the example by personally handing eviction notices to tenants of his 13 apartment buildings.

Watch Those Laws! Local, State, Federal, Unions Are Warned

It is everybody's job these days to observe, study, and analyze the political situation—the framing of laws—on all three levels, local, state, and national, was the timely warning of State Federation Secretary C. J. Haggerty before the Los Angeles Central Labor Council last week.

The Federation sponsors a big state-wide conference of affiliated unions in Fresno on Sunday of next week, Feb. 26, at the Hotel Californian, to study the pro-labor and anti-labor laws just introduced in the state legislature and which will be acted upon by the legislature when it reconvenes on March 7.

The State Building Trades Council is also actively studying current state legislation.

Meanwhile, on the national level, issues of paramount importance to labor and all consumers and wage-earners are being decided in the national capital.

KEEP INFORMED

Secretary Haggerty urged that every member consider it his duty to keep informed on these laws, because they affect the comfort and well-being of each of us. It

is a very practical matter to know what's going on and to add our voice when it should be heard.

The state and national capitals are now operating pretty much on a letter-test basis. In other words, a legislator counts up the number of letters he has received for and against a certain matter and then acts accordingly.

5500 NEW BILLS!

"When the legislature convened in Sacramento there were a total of 4939 bills presented," Haggerty said. "It is difficult to conceive of such a mass of proposed legislation. Now, when legislators return to Sacramento on March 7, it is a virtual certainty that each will avail himself of his legislative right to introduce two additional bills. It is a privilege that every legislator takes. No exceptions, to my knowledge, have ever been recorded."

"Thus about 5500 bills should confront the legislators when they reconvene. In this mass are a number of bills bad for labor. They should and must be defeated. In the immediate future, a carefully

made analysis of bills affecting labor will be distributed by the State Federation. Study it, do not throw it away. It is deeply important to us all."

"Your voice, in Sacramento or Washington, is as strong as that of labor's enemies, who are constantly trying to influence legislation. Your legislative representatives want to hear from you. Talk to them, and write. It is imperative that labor's story, not alone the story of GOP reaction, should be given fullest publicity."

GRIN or GROAN

Our school teachers are expected to teach economics, but from what I've heard of some wage rates, the only ideas they could possibly have about money are purely theoretical.

Less time would be wasted in union meetings if some of the speakers would tell what they know instead of what they think.

Influence is something you may think you have until you try to use it.

Miss Blue—"I think the most wonderful thing in the world is marrying the man you want."
Mrs. Black—"You're wrong. The most wonderful thing is marrying the man the other girls want."

"I never saw a woman so anxious to get married. You shouldn't be so obvious about it."
"I have to be. I am at the in-between age."

"What do you mean by in-between age?"
"In-between eager and desperate."

You shouldn't go through life looking for something soft; you might find it under your hat.

Worry is like a rocking chair, it will give you something to do but it won't get you anywhere.

Many a woman who can't add can certainly distract.

So far as usefulness is concerned, the nickel has gone the way of most of the other buffalo.

An experienced stenographer is one who knows how to keep the boss from ending a sentence with a proposition, according to Eleanor Murphy.

About the only way to avoid the high cost of living is to stop living.

Neighbor—"How is your son doing at college? Is he pursuing his studies diligently?"
Father—"He has to pursue them. He's always behind."

Little Dorothy had been promoted to the third grade and a few days later she met her second grade teacher.
"Gee, Miss Sullivan," she piped, "I hate to leave you. I wish you were smart enough to teach me this term."

Jackie—"Mom, when we have company for dinner tonight, do I have to eat my pie with a fork?"
Mother—"Yes."
Jackie—"Well, may I have a piece now to practice on?"

Neighbor—"How is your son doing at college? Is he pursuing his studies diligently?"
Father—"He has to pursue them. He's always behind."

Here Are Main Provisions of U. S. Health Ins. Bill

Here are the major features of the National Health Insurance Bill:

Medical Care. Preventive (check-ups, inoculations, etc., to keep you from getting sick unnecessarily); diagnostic (to find out what is wrong with you when you are sick); and curative (to cure you after you are sick). This means services by a family doctor, services of specialists when needed, hospital care (60 days hospital care, except for tuberculosis and mental diseases); laboratory and x-ray services; unusually expensive medicines; dental care and home nursing to a limited degree.

Eligibility. You and your dependents (wife or disabled husband, parents, children if dependent and under 18 years of age) are eligible if you are: (a) employed or self-employed; (b) receiving old age or survivors' benefits; (c) receiving civil service benefits; (d) a needy person whose contributions to the insurance fund are paid by a public agency.

The Cost. 1½ per cent of your earnings up to \$3600; your employer would contribute another 1½ per cent up to \$3600. If you are self-employed, you would pay 3 per cent up to \$3600 of your own earnings.

Free Choice. You can choose your own doctor, hospital, group clinic, specialist, dentist, or nurse from among all the practitioners and institutions in your community that serve under the act. Doctors will be free to accept or reject patients, just as they do now.

Doctors. Doctors are not compelled to take part in the program. By merely declaring he does not want to serve patients under the National Health Insurance Act, a doctor can remain outside of it and continue to treat patients privately.

Payments. Doctors will be paid by the method a majority of the doctors in a given area or locality prefer. Doctors will be paid by a fee-for-each-service, by salary, or on a per capita (so much for each person on the doctor's list); or by a combination of these methods, as the majority may determine.

Administration. The funds will be collected by the federal government along with other social security payments. Each state government will divide the state into local service areas and appoint local committees and officers. Doctors and laymen in the communities will run the program.

Existing Plans. Voluntary health insurance plans could continue to provide you with services under this act, and be reimbursed from the Health Insurance Fund.

Florida State Conclave Slated To Open April 4

Lakeland, Fla.—President James A. Harper of the Florida State Federation of Labor announced that the annual convention of the State Federation will convene here April 4. This convention will be particularly important as it occurs just prior to the opening of the Florida State Legislature where labor will introduce its legislative program, Mr. Harper said.

The Florida convention is expected to provide a "kickoff" for setting of the basis for public relations, political activity, labor legislation and economic policies for the advancement of workers in the South.

Operating Engineers Report Broad Gains at Western Conference

Reports of extensive gains on every front in the West's great postwar period of growth and industrial expansion were heard at the regular Western States Conference of the IUOE, held in San Francisco's Whitcomb Hotel on Jan. 29 and 30.

Temporarily stymied by a winter, engineers are nevertheless set to go on one of the biggest years in history, reports from 15 local unions and representatives of the international union indicated. Membership in engineer locals has increased in every IUOE local in the West, it was revealed.

The conference heard reports from reclamation and power authorities on the government's huge development program for the Central Valleys of California, the Columbia Basin, and the Missouri River Basin, projects that mean thousands of jobs for skilled tradesmen as well as great new sources of power, water, and flood control that are badly needed to bring industrial independence to the West.

The conference voted to set up a committee that will confer with General President Maloney in regard to future activities of the conference, Seventh Vice President Victor Swanson of San Francisco to work with the group, and any other delegates attending the executive board meeting in Miami being permitted to sit in on the deliberations.

NEXT IN DENVER

Next meeting of the conference is scheduled for Denver in June. Local 115 of Vancouver, B.C., was granted permission to affiliate with the conference. San Francisco Local 3 was voted sincere thanks for a much-enjoyed banquet given the delegates. President Pat Clancy entertained a motion calling for a rising vote of thanks to Brother Arthur Rossman of Spokane for his capable work as conference secretary.

Delegates from the 14 affiliated local unions gave reports on conditions in their respective areas, and the conference heard several interesting talks by government representatives.

"BIG STAKES"

Richard L. Boke, regional director of the Bureau of Reclamation, reported on current status of the big Central Valleys Project and other reclamation projects in California, which total some \$72 million for this year.

He declared that the stakes in the battle for control of water and power development are enormous, with private interests fighting des-

perately to control them, rather than to let the small business man and the average family man get their share.

Other speakers were Thomas Saxon, labor relations advisor for the Federal Housing Authority; R. Stormer, labor relations director for Bonneville Power Administration; Ron Houghton, representing the University of California industrial relations institute; Vice President Swanson, International Trustee Herbolzheimer, and six international union representatives.

Atomic Workers Victors On Vacation Pay Issue

Oak Ridge, Tenn.—The AFL's Atomic Trades and Labor Council has announced a favorable decision from the Board of Arbitration on the issue of computation of vacation pay for atomic energy employees of the Carbide and Carbon Chemical Corporation.

The decision of the arbitrators gave to M. J. McDaniel the award providing that in his case, as well as in all other cases involving Carbide and Carbon, the company would be required to include the differential in shift premium pay to all employees receiving shift premium pay in the calculations for vacation pay. This means that approximately one week's pay will go to about 800 workers.

AFL LEADERS CLOSE BUSY WINTER SESSION

Miami.—The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor closed one of its busiest meetings in years with the adoption of a 1949 legislative program headed by repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Before adjourning, the Council took action on a situation in Canada in which Communists have been permitted to become potent in the Trades and Labor Congress. In addition, the AFL leaders endorsed the recommendations of a joint committee of the Federation and the Inter-American Confederation of Workers in regard to "local area" employees in the Panama Canal Zone.

IBEW UTILITY MEN MAKING BIG ORGANIZING GAINS IN NEW YORK

The IBEW won several NLRB elections held recently in the East, thus chalking up new gains for the progressive union.

An election among production, maintenance and distribution employees of the Niagara Hudson Power Co., at Syracuse, N.Y., found the IBEW certified as the bargaining agent after winning in the balloting by nearly two to one. Actual count was 937 to 513.

BIG GAIN

In a statewide election on the Niagara Hudson system, District 50 of the United Mine Workers took a drubbing later when 4,068 employees from every section of New York marked their ballots for the IBEW versus 1,913 who voted for "no union." District 50 leaders had urged their members to vote for the latter because they

had been ruled off the ballot for failure to sign the non-communist affidavits.

At the Hazard Insulated Wire Works where the NLRB conducted an election among office and clerical workers on the union shop, 70 voted in favor of the provision and only 12 against. Among the production workers the vote favored the IBEW by an even more preponderous score—612 for vs. 5 against.

N. J. WIN

In an election at the big Kearny, N. J., works of the Western Electric Co., the IBEW ran on the ballot against three contending unions—the CWA, TWOC-CIO, and WEEA—and got the largest vote. In the run-off election the CIO did not even appear. IBEW polled 6,822 votes vs. 5,450 for the CWA.



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Wealthy Blind Men 'Used' in Prop. 4 Recall

Los Angeles—Commenting on the move of the California Council of the Blind in filing an initiative amendment to repeal Proposition 4 with the State Attorney General, George H. McLain, chairman of the Citizens' Committee for Old Age Pensions, revealed that he possesses written evidence that financial and industrial interests agreed to underwrite the repeal attempt if a few well-off blind men would front for them.

McLain, author of the existing aged and blind aid measure, promised his organization would fight to the finish any attempt to return the aged and blind to their former pauperism.

"The blind group associated with the repealers do not represent the needy blind of California, and certainly not the needy aged," McLain declared. "Robinson and Company, of San Francisco, a professional petition circulating firm, is using these insignificant few well-off blind to try to make it appear as if all the blind were against Proposition 4. This is ridiculous because no needy blind or aged person is going to be against securing a better pension. Through recent action by the state legislature, the benefits given to the aged and the needy blind also were made available to the partially self-supporting blind."

"This Robinson and Company, which is the same firm that took \$75,000 from the needy aged and blind to qualify Proposition 4 for the ballot, now is taking more money to circulate the repeal petitions. And we know who is paying the bill."

"It boils down to whether concentrated economic power, which amounts to dictatorship, or the people as a whole are to make our laws. After all, the people spoke when they voted the measure into law in November. How many elections have to be held before the people's mandate is acceptable? This repeal attempt is a travesty on our free election system the like of which has rarely been seen in our nation's history. The Citizens' Committee, of which I have the honor to be chairman, will continue to fight for the two most helpless elements in our population, the needy aged and the needy blind. We defeated all the strategies of these special interests once and we will do it again. If they persist in going through with this, California will in my opinion see the greatest political fight in its history."

Seafarers in East Set Welfare Plan as Goal

New York.—A welfare plan should be demanded by the Seafarers International Union at the next meeting between union negotiators and the shipowners, STU members unanimously voted here. Union officials were directed to make a thorough study of existing welfare plans and to formulate a plan which would be feasible for the Seafarers.

A series of articles on welfare plans will appear in the Seafarers' Log, union publication. The first article has already appeared.



BUSINESS AGENTS of Local 3 are moaning about the cold weather this month, and rightly so. Therefore we thought this piece of Florida propaganda might be good to balance things up a bit. To hear the hurricane state talking, you'd think all they have down there is sunshine and sex. Anyway, this here helps brighten up this corner of the page.



PRIVATE OUTLAYS FOR NEW NONFARM PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AS PERCENT OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

Headline: Harvester Profits On OUTPUT, Not Prices

Washington—Most newspapers last week missed a story on their own advertising pages which should have been on the front pages.

It was an advertisement by one of America's leading manufacturers that it was making the biggest profit in history. When a manufacturer brags about his profits, it is news. Most of them use the advertising columns to try to kid the public that profits are not high enough.

But the real news in this advertisement was that the company was showing the rest of industry how to make the American economy work for full production and full employment permanently without the booms and busts that have marked our past history with tragic consequences.

The advertisement was a full page job in which International Harvester disclosed that its profits in 1948 were the "largest in its history." But the story International Harvester told in bragging of its profits is one that should be applauded by all of labor, which to the surprise of some manufacturers will not oppose profits of the kind International is making.

The reason labor will applaud International's profits is because they came from volume production, at a lower profit margin than the company used to enjoy. As the advertisement pointed out, Harvester's profits last year were only 4.7 cents on the dollar of sales as compared with 8.3 per cent in 1941. That profit margin was the lowest in many years, Harvester said.

Here is a dramatic demonstration of what labor economists and New Deal economists have contended for years—that it is possible for industry to enjoy higher profits than ever before at a lower margin of profits per dollar, if it will stress production, instead of restricting production by high prices.

This is just the kind of pricing policy the President's Economic Council has been urging on industry—without much success. Instead, companies such as General Electric have continued to hold their profit margins up close to where they were years ago—with the result that their volume of profits has zoomed to record breaking heights. This has meant high prices to consumers, continued inflation, and the danger of a tragic bust when prices come down because consumers can no longer afford to pay such prices.

As a result of such pricing policies by most of industry, corporate profits last year were about 20 billion dollars, or more than double what they were in the boom year of 1929, or the highest profit years during the recent world war. These corporate profits, on top of higher wages, have sent prices zooming constantly upward. That is why industrial profits have not dropped, along with farm prices in recent months.

In its advertisement International Harvester, instead of complaining about high wages and blaming them for high prices, as most corporations do, bragged that average earnings of its non-salaried factory workers had increased 92.6 per cent since 1941 and that other salaries had gone up correspondingly.

Explaining how it had distributed only part of its profits, and used the balance to improve plants, International Harvester said:

"Profits at work made it possible for International Harvester, in 1948, to serve more people—employees, customers, and stockholders—in greater measure than ever before. By continuing to earn a profit, we hope also to continue to serve more people in greater measure than ever before."

Here—spelled out by International Harvester and not by "New Deal theorists"—is the prescription for permanent full employment in America. It is particularly gratifying that this demonstration comes from International Harvester, which studies have shown maintained highly rigid prices during the disastrous depression of 1930 when the income of its farmer consumers was shrinking away almost fast.

Secy. Tobin in Oakland Talk On May 17

Maurice J. Tobin, Secretary of Labor, will be the principal speaker at the second annual mass graduation of apprentices in the East Bay, to be held at the Oakland Auditorium arena on May 17, 1949, according to John Janusch, publicity director of the apprentice graduation committee. Mr. Tobin is making his first appearance on the



West Coast since the inauguration of apprentices to honor more than 600 apprentices in 40 crafts who have completed their apprentice training and will receive journeyman certificates at the graduation exercises.

Cooperating with the labor and management groups in the apprentice training program are the State Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards, and the local school districts.

Jobless Payments Double 1947 in New York State

New York City.—In January of this year state unemployment insurance payments to jobless workers were nearly twice as high as they were in January of last year, according to a report from the statistics made public by the division of placement and unemployment insurance of the State Department of Labor.

The report showed that insurance benefits in January of this year totaled \$25,543,685, compared with \$13,616,913 in the same month of 1948. The reserve in the unemployment insurance trust fund stood at \$1,033,558,421 last month, as against \$1,056,740,651 a year earlier.

Officials said the increased volume of unemployment represents no threat to the stability of the fund, but that it might result in a sharp drop in merit-rating refunds to employers. These refunds will total \$127,000,000 on the basis of the 1948 unemployment record. Veterans readjustment allowances under the G-I bill of rights dropped last month, as against the 1948 figure. Last month \$4,159,734 in veterans' allowances was distributed, compared with \$5,484,915 in January of last year.

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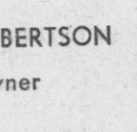
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ATTENTION, ALL MEMBERS: The next regular meeting for the Salinas area will be held at the Carpenters Hall on Thursday, March 3 at 8 p.m. This will no doubt be the last meeting at the Carpenters Hall inasmuch as the hall is very small. Beginning with April, our meetings will be held at the Moose Hall however, you will be advised definitely as to place and the time for future meetings.

Beginning with April, remember that it will be necessary to attend at least one meeting out of every three unless a valid excuse is given, subject to approval of the Executive Board. Failure to attend will be subject to a \$2.50 fine, payable in advance before any dues. This will apply to people residing in the Salinas area. All members living in the Monterey area will be subject to the same conditions. Meetings are held in Monterey the second Thursday of the month, at Bartenders' Hall, 315 Alvarado St. Failure to attend one meeting out of every three will be subject to a \$2.50 fine.

Important: We have recently organized Mission Creamery in Monterey, Carmel Dairy at Carmel, and Coca-Cola in Monterey. Please patronize these firms—they are Union now!

This completes organizational work in the milk industry with the exception of Eureka Dairy. This place is not organized.

We have also organized the Egenhoff Gas Distribution plant at Moss Landing. They are handling Supreme gas, and drivers at this plant are members of this union. This firm merits your patronage.

Remember that the only cab companies that employ members of this union and who are recognized by the American Federation of Labor are: Yellow Cab, Checker, Packard and Black and White Cab Company, formerly known as Salinas and Carl's Cabs. Please patronize these cab companies only. ALL OTHER FIRMS ARE UNFAIR TO THE TEAMSTERS' UNION and do not merit your patronage.

Remember, our fight continues against the scab-herding Texhoma Cab Company, which discharged some of our members and wrote a back-door agreement with the CIO union while pickets were maintained at that plant. It is reported that the Texhoma drivers are working longer hours, with no guarantee and no conditions. Texhoma has within its framework Ace, City and Dependable cabs. We ask all of our members not to patronize Texhoma Cab Company.

SERVICE STATIONS

We want to remind you again that the only union service stations in the Salinas area are: Sears gas station in Valley Center, La-Marr Tires and gas station, Dean's Tires and gas station, and Firestone Tires at Monterey and San Luis Streets. We have two tire shops organized: Don Hultz and Harry Rhodes. The gasoline attendants at these two firms are non-union, so refrain from purchasing your gasoline at these two places.

The following plumbing shop supply houses employ members of our union: Don Early, Standard Supply Company, Salinas Pipe and Supply Company, and Smarden Pipe Shop, recently organized and located at East Market Street.

Attention All Members: Tickets are now being sold by the union's Recreation Committee for the purpose of supporting some of their sports activities such as softball and bowling teams. In order that this may turn out successfully, we ask that you purchase your tickets either from the committee members, business agents or at the union office. Prizes will be awarded in April.

American Red Cross: The American Federation of Labor in this area will put on a benefit dance for the purpose of raising funds to assist the local chapter of the American Red Cross. This dance will be held sometime in March and tickets will be available very soon. In line with this, we wish to admonish all of our members that you will be approached to make contributions to the American Red Cross through your union rather than being solicited at home or through your place of employment. Watch this column for further information regarding the Red Cross drive.

To All Members: Have you received your insurance policy? If not, there is some reason for it. It has either been mailed to you and returned to be filed in the dead file, or we do not have the necessary information such as full name of beneficiary, date of birth, etc. If you have not received your insurance policy, please notify the office of the union.

Pay your dues before the first day of each month so that you will be in good standing and eligible

for any benefits. Remember, too, that when you are asking for a withdrawal card, be sure that you are in good standing with all dues paid, including the current month. An honorable withdrawal card cannot be issued to anyone who has not paid his or her dues for the current month.

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WHEN ATTENDING YOUR UNION MEETINGS, DON'T FAIL TO BRING YOUR DUES BOOK. ONLY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE MEETINGS.

NEWS FOR VETS

Veterans taking institutional-on-farm training under the G-I Bill must submit reports of their 1948 earnings to their Veterans Administration regional office by March 1, 1949, in order to continue receiving subsistence allowances, VA has announced.

Failure to submit the reports before the deadline may result in suspension of subsistence payments until such time as the reports reach VA.

Affected are 2,345 California veteran farm-trainees, including 1,340 northern California veterans reporting to the San Francisco regional office, 799 in the Los Angeles area, and 206 in the San Diego regional area.

Veteran farm trainees in Arizona total 383 and in Nevada 61. The reports must cover income from productive labor only for the calendar year 1948. They will be used by VA as the basis for adjusting each veteran's subsistence for the current year 1949.

Under the law, subsistence allowance will be reduced if a veteran's monthly income from productive labor, plus his subsistence, exceeds \$210 a month if he has no dependents, \$270 if he has one dependent, or \$290 if he has more than one dependent.

The annual earnings report is based upon farm accounting records kept by the veteran farm-trainee as part of his course of instruction.

In the case of a veteran operating a farm for himself under the training program, income from productive labor is computed by deducting from his yearly net farm income: (1) the interest on his capital investments, and (2) an amount for unpaid family labor—and by adding an estimated value for family living furnished by the farm.

His net farm income is derived from the difference between inventories at the beginning of the year and from a detailed account of all receipts and expenditures in connection with his farm business.

A veteran taking his training from an employer-trainer, on the other hand, reports as compensation for productive labor all wages received, whether in cash or in kind.

Early this year veteran farm-trainees received necessary VA forms for making the report.

As a part of their course of training, they receive assistance from their instructors in closing their books for the past year and transferring data to the VA form.

To Push 30-Hour Week When Needed

As soon as the present easing off of the post-war boom shows signs of becoming another depression, the AFL will strongly push the 30-hour week.

The AFL's last convention adopted the 30-hour week proposal of the IBEW International President Daniel W. Tracy who was also the principal advocate in the AFL movement for the shorter week to spread work during the depression of the 30's.

IBEW LOOKS AHEAD

"We don't know how long present employment will continue," Mr. Tracy has said, "but we must be prepared to work toward a shorter work week when the Marshall European Recovery program and rearmament are no longer necessary to carry us along."

The California State Federation of Labor has also gone on record approving the 30-hour week as a depression hedge and urges all locals to write it into contracts when

DEMAND THE UNION LABEL.



TESTIFIES IN ANTI-TRUST SUIT — Hollywood's Walt Disney (L.), veteran of many a bitter battle with his employees, takes on the government in its \$8 million anti-trust suit against United Detroit Theaters.

Lose Your Job Brother? CSES Will Snarl at You

(Re-printed from San Diego LABOR JOURNAL)

During the past few weeks we've had visits from several members of organized labor who have visited the State Unemployment offices here. For most of these people it was a new experience... Their first attempt to collect on a jobless "insurance" policy on which they had been paying for many years. Each applicant had much the same story to tell, and it was not pretty. Generally, the story was that when a worker applied for dividends on his, or her, unemployment insurance policy they became a supplicant, not an applicant. That the people—paid by their insurance premiums—were disinterested, discourteous, prying and condescending.

Knowing one of the "suppliants" personally, and that he was fair-minded and of average intelligence, we asked him to outline impressions of his treatment here. We trust that the servants of the State will not take offense, that they will see themselves as others do and that applicants for unemployment insurance benefits will be treated as any insurance company treats its policy holders—as clients, not objects of charity. The story follows.—The Editor.

Do you have an inferiority complex?

Are your inhibitions keeping you in the introverted class?

If so, you will not mind the run-around you are subjected to by some lofty, superior people at the State Unemployment Office.

But if you are a normal working man or woman with normal reactions and a love of fair play, you will burn with indignation at the "soup kitchen" lines and the high-and-mighty attitude of our "servants of the State" at the jobless commissariat at Columbia and G Streets.

That great friend of the unemployed and downtrodden, State Senator Fred H. Kraft, says it is soft-picking to file a few claims for unemployment insurance and collect a weekly divvy up to \$25 a week by just going in and asking for it.

Senator Fred just took off his clean shirt and by posing as an unemployed pharmacist or something was able to file a few fake claims in various State unemployment offices.

Senator Fred does not say whether he actually collected any benefits. Even you might file a claim without too much trouble. But try to get the insurance money yours by right of law without an airtight case. Of course, Senator Fred, the Haroun Al Raschid of the State Senate, has a wheedling, scratchy, baritone voice.

Mayhap he knew all the answers and was able to pour personality on some of the female interviewers. Mayhap the stooges on the State payroll in the local office read about Senator Fred's escapade and have tightened their lines of resistance.

Anyway, to file a claim and get the compensation due you if you become unemployed in an experience in frustration. It will sour any milk of human kindness brought within atomic bombing distance of these watchdogs of the State Treasury.

If you lose your job, the first thing to do is rid yourself of the notion that you are entitled to some benefits from the insurance you have been paying premiums on to the State, perhaps for many years.

That's only the law. You are now only a cipher to be pushed around a bit by the bored "workers" of the State.

You enter the big, barn-like structure and see lines of men and women before a series of windows. You look behind the windows and see a lot of desks occupied by "interviewers" and "dispatchers" who pass you from one to another and give you a handful of papers to take from one to the next you are told to see.

You first go to a window where it says "information." The bored gent hands you two forms to fill out. One is for a claim for state unemployment benefits—that's benefits, remember, from insurance paid for, not a dole—and the other an application for employment which is promptly buried in crowded files.

You pass the forms in at the window you are told to visit. An unsmiling man or woman tells you to sit down in waiting space so-and-so.

You sit down and wait until your name is called.

Usually is is barked, not called, and you have to answer promptly or the impatient interviewer will go along to the next victim.

Seated before the interviewer you are quizzed at length on the answers you have made to the questionnaire. This party apparently classifies you according to job and, after making a few marks on the papers, tosses them in a basket and tells you to go to waiting space so-and-so.

After a substantial wait, you meet another of the "dispatchers" who quizzes you some more and wants to know just why you left your job and how come you think you should collect benefits. If you are not a chiseler making a life work of collecting state benefits you will be handed an identification card.

The prying Paul or Pauline will tell you to report next week at such and such hour at such and such window and you will get the next installment of the "Established Procedure for Unemployed Persons."

Next week you show up at the window indicated. You have had to queue up and wait your turn. The lady with the fancy hair-do or the gent having trouble keeping his cigar alight will stamp your I.D. card and make you sign something. This indicates that you made your personal appearance and exposed yourself to the system.

You are told that this is the waiting period and to come back at the same window next week, at the same time on the same day, and you will hear more. You come in the following week as ordered and get in line.

On reaching the window you are quizzed on whether you have had any earnings and if there is any reason you can't work. You mustn't tell them that if you had a job you wouldn't be there and that the reason you are not working is because you can't find a job. Those are not the prescribed answers. You must keep to form.

Then, if your labor record has been returned from Sacramento and checks are sent to the local office, you are handed one of the punched-card variety, told to sign it and get it and get in line in front of the cashier and you will get your cash benefit. Perhaps your labor record has not arrived. You just sign something to show you reported as ordered and wait until the following week.

If you draw benefits for two weeks you get a questionnaire handed you which you must fill out. These are required once a month. You must tell all about yourself each time and list the places where you have applied for work.

Each week when you line up at the designated window the snooty dame or gent facing you asks you if you have had any earnings in the previous week, whether you are looking for work, whether you turned down any jobs, whether there is any reason you can't work.

Like a good regimented cipher, you give the correct answers, get your check and get in line again to exchange it for cash.

These State employees are a big-hearted lot. They will give you the benefits you are entitled to if there is no way to avoid it. And while doing it they will be strictly inhuman and impersonal.

They just don't think that if you and thousands of others did not become unemployed once in a while they would have no jobs themselves.

But then that would be a human reaction. Perish the thought.

An unorthodox four-seated light plane is being built in England. Its engine is in the middle of its fuselage and a pusher-propeller is aft of the tail.

Big Stations Would Hog All You Hear

Washington.—Super-power—to control everything Americans may hear—is what the big radio stations are now seeking.

In a report submitted to the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, Senators Charles W. Tobey (R., N.H.) and Ernest W. McFarland (D., Ariz.) recommended changes in the radio laws and the power of the Federal Communications Commission to avoid hogging of the airwaves by the clear channel stations.

There are only 24 clear channel stations in the United States, the report points out. These stations have a valuable gift of the people's airwaves. They each have a whole channel to themselves, all the way across the U.S. But they want even more; they want 750,000 watts. If the 24 clear channel stations get the 750,000 watts each that they are asking, they would be able to squeeze 2,000 small stations off the radio dials of the nation.

Sen. Edwin C. Johnson (D., Colo.), chairman of the Commerce Committee, last year introduced a bill to restrict the power of AM stations to 50,000 watts and permit sharing of the clear channels. "To me," Johnson says, "super-power and clear channels are the most important issue in AM radio today." They mean monopoly of radio, he asserts.

Bldg. Trades Pay Up One Per Cent

Washington, D.C.—Wage rates of union workers in the building trades rose one per cent during the last quarter of 1948, according to a survey of seven major crafts in 85 cities released here by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

Higher pay scales were reported from 40 of the cities and affected about one-tenth of the organized building trades workers.

The largest gain, 4.4 per cent, among the seven crafts was reported for electricians. Increases of 25 cents in Newark and 50 cents in New York, which advanced the rate levels to \$3 an hour in these cities, contributed markedly to the sharp rise in the average for this craft.

The Bureau's estimate of the average pay scale of union workers, including laborers, in building construction was \$2.16 an hour on January 3, 1949.

During 1948, union rates in the building trades advanced 10 per cent, 75 per cent of the rise occurring during the first half of the year. Inasmuch as the majority of agreements expire in spring and early summer, such wage adjustments as may result from collective bargaining would normally diminish during the latter part of the year.

Hourly rates of union workers in the construction industry have risen 68 per cent since June 1939, while the Bureau's Consumers' Price Index between this date and November 1948, advanced 75 per cent. Gross weekly earnings of all workers in private building construction, both union and non-union, rose 129 per cent during the same period.

Gets \$400 an Hour!

The Treasury Department's latest listing of top salaries disclosed that Movie Mogul Charles P. Skouras was paid \$985,300. Our solid platinum adding machine figured out that on the basis of 308 working days, Brother Skouras made \$3198 a day and \$400 an hour. But think of what he would have made if he had been shrewd enough to join a union and got time-and-a-half for overtime.



STYLE NOTE—"I'm getting a lavender convertible to go with my new spring hat."

Screwball Hunters! 38 Are Killed

San Francisco.—"Rank carelessness and sheer stupidity caused most of California's 89 hunting accidents during 1948," asserts the chief of the Bureau of Game Conservation, Division of Fish and Game.

In announcing a record annual total of 38 hunter deaths—probably the nation's high—Chief Jos. S. Hunter blamed lack of safety training as a primary cause in most of the accident cases. Sixty-four hunting mishaps were gun-caused. "Fathers shot sons; sons shot fathers; brothers shot brothers; nephews shot uncles; brothers-in-law shot brothers-in-law; and friend shot friend—not a record to be proud of," Hunter stated. "Sound" hunters, shooting in areas with limited visibility, caused four deaths and several non-fatal accidents. Loaded guns in automobiles accounted for seven fatalities.

Nineteen firearm accidents resulted in mortalities, and one hunter is still in such critical condition he may die, Hunter reported. Deer and upland game hunting ranked as the most dangerous sports in the annual report. Nine deaths and 18 gunshot wounds were scored among deer hunters, while pheasant, quail and rabbit hunters experienced eight deaths and 21 non-fatal casualties.

California's most unusual mishap occurred when a sleeping deer hunter awakened in his car with a start when the alarm sounded; upset the clock, the clock hit the trigger of his six-shooter; the bullet went through a spare gasoline can; the blast set fire to the gas, and the hunter burned to death.

A deer hunter asleep in his sleeping bag was shot through the shoulder by another hunter. Two deer hunters were killed and another injured when they fell over cliffs while chasing wounded bucks. One nimrod accidentally shot his brother while rabbit hunting and in remorse, promptly took his own life.

The state's appalling hunting accident rate will continue, Hunter believes, until every person who carries a firearm afield practices the basic rules of safety—treat every gun as if it were loaded; look before shooting; and never mix gunpowder with alcohol.

5775 Cal. Clerks Get \$3 Million Wage Increase

Lafayette, Ind.—A \$3,003,000 wage increase for 5775 food clerks in 1949 has been negotiated in one-year contracts by six California local unions of the Retail Clerks International Association, AFL, it is announced by James A. Suffridge, International secretary-treasurer.

The multi-million dollar wage boost represents a \$10 per week individual raise in all categories, since it is on an across-the-board basis. This sets the minimum weekly rate of journeymen food clerks at \$65 and managing clerks at \$85 for a five-day, 40-hour week, a work pattern which was established two years ago. Figured on an individual basis, the \$3,003,000 sum will give each union employee approximately \$520 more money this year.

The one-year agreement covers an area roughly from the middle of California to the Mexican border. The exceptions are San Diego County where food contracts expire in April; Los Angeles and San Pedro where agreements expire this fall.

With the exception of wages, there were but few changes made in existing agreements. The new pacts were negotiated with employer associations on a friendly plane. This labor-management relation is historic with the RCIA-AFL which has not had a major strike in a quarter of a century.

Trojan Horse



Rails Boast Profits, Lay Off 75,000

Chicago.—High profits and high employment don't necessarily go together—at least not on the railroads. That's what at least 75,000 workers on the "Iron Horse" have discovered. They're the number who have been slashed from the rolls during the past few months.

On the one hand, the Association of American Railroads revealed that during 1948 the railroads amassed \$711,000,000 in net income—a jump of 42 per cent over 1947—and one of the highest profit totals in the history of the rails.

Yet many of the railroads have embarked on a labor layoff spree. The New York Central trimmed its rolls by 8,100. Many others cut off thousands, and the Railroad Retirement Board estimated that unemployment on the rails had passed the 75,000 mark, about 6 per cent of over-all employment.

Chiefs of the Railroad Brotherhoods questioned the justification for the layoffs—but, nevertheless, they seized upon the growing unemployment to their own advantage. They demanded that the railroads go on a 40-hour week. In the case of 16 of the Brotherhoods, representing a million "non-operating" railmen—those not engaged in direct train operation—a Presidential Fact Finding Board recently recommended a reduction of the work week from 48 to 40 hours, without any cut in 48-hour earnings—but not to become effective until next September.

The board held that the railroads needed time to adjust themselves to the shorter week, and lacked the manpower to apply it now. The layoffs, however, disprove that argument, union leaders said.

"The layoffs show this would be the ideal time to inaugurate the 40-hour week," declared President G. E. Leighty of the Railroad Telegraphers, who is also spokesman for the 16 unions in their current wage movement. "The railroads now have the men available to go on a shorter week."

KEEP RENT CONTROL, AFL TELLS CONGRESS

Washington.—Rent control must be extended, the House Committee on Banking and Currency was told by Peter Henle, acting secretary of the AFL's Housing Committee. "We are convinced," he declared, "that an effective and workable rent control program must be continued until the acute shortage of housing, and particularly of rental housing, has been met."

Mr. Henle, who is also the AFL's assistant economist, lashed out at the weakening of rent control during the past 18 months. This has been responsible "in large measure" for the sharp increase in rents which has taken place, he said.

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Duquesne Electric Workers Get Raises

Utility workers employed at the giant Duquesne Power and Light company, who repudiated the UAWA to chose the IBEW in system elections held last fall, have ratified an IBEW contract providing for back-pay and increases in wages averaging 8 per cent.

The contract also contains many improvements in working conditions. Increases of 12 cents an hour were obtained for all classifications.

RAISES PLUS

In addition to the 12-cent raise, Hot Stick linemen will get 5 cents, making their increase total 17 cents. Line Crew leaders or sub-foremen will get an added 10 cents; Hot Stick line crewmen an added 5 cents; Welders, Pipefitters, and Bricklayers, 11 cents additional; Larry operators and hot operators, 10 cents extra; and the Equitable Unit (auto mechanics), 5 cents in addition to the general 12 cents raise.

The new IBEW contract covers employees working in the physical, clerical, steam, heat and gas sections of Duquesne in addition to many other types of workers.

Our school teachers are expected to teach economics, but from what I've heard of some wage rates, the only ideas they could possibly have about money are purely theoretical.

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